

STORY: ISUNA HASEKURA
ART: KEITO KOUME
CHARACTER DESIGN: JYUU AYAKURA



SPICE & WOX

VOL. 7

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF



Lawrence
A merchant traveling with Holo. Heading north in search of Holo's homeland.



Holo

Lawrence's traveling companion, a beautiful girl. Her true form is that of the wolf-god of the harvest.



Evan

A young miller. Entranced by the world outside his village—including merchants.



Elsa

A girl in the employ of the priest of the Church in Tereo. In love with Evan.

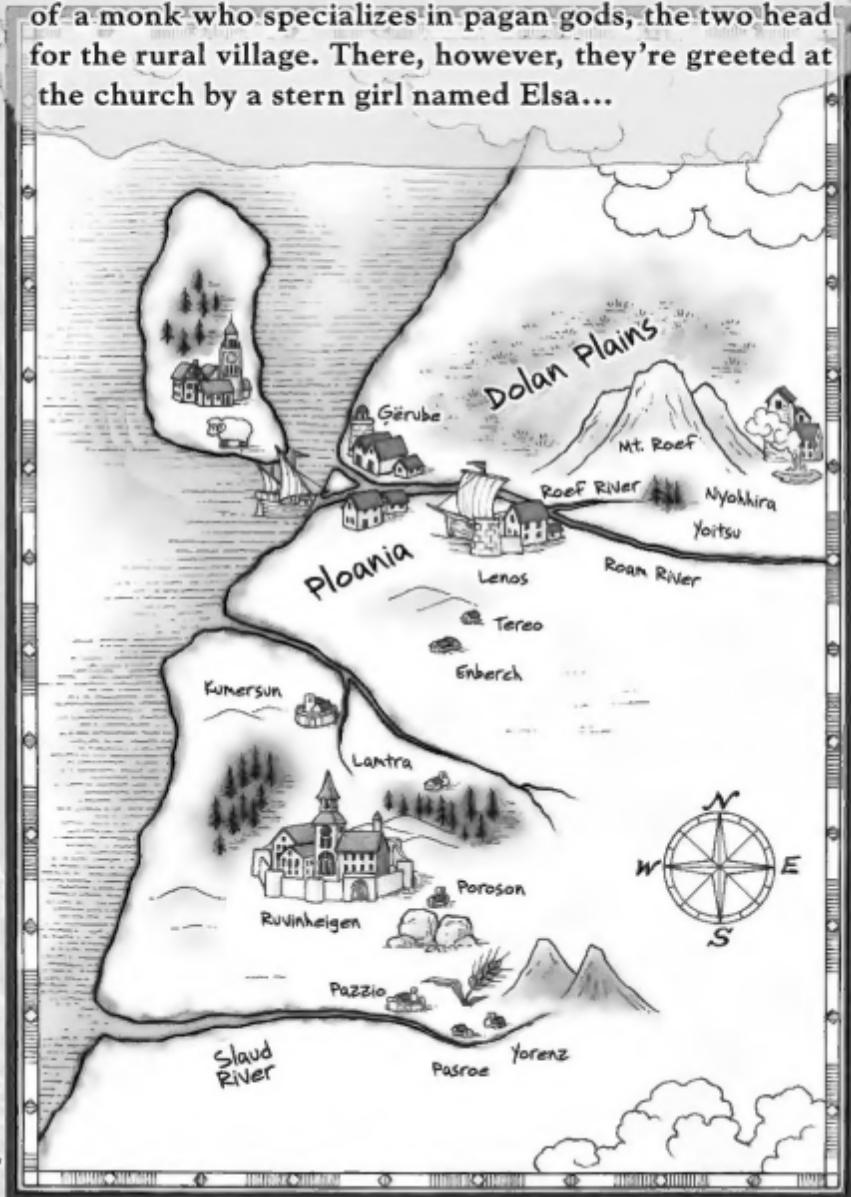


Bishop Van

The bishop of St. Rio's Church in the town of Enberch. Conspiring with the town to control Tereo.

Introduction

Seeking clues to lead them to Holo's homeland, Lawrence and Holo journey northward. Having heard that the church priest in Tereo knows the whereabouts of a monk who specializes in pagan gods, the two head for the rural village. There, however, they're greeted at the church by a stern girl named Elsa...



Map illustration: Hidetada Idemitsu

SPICE & WOLF

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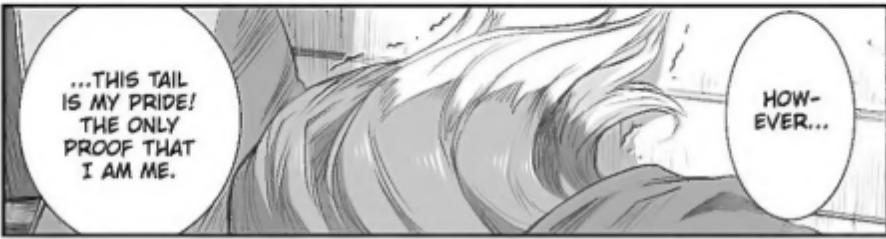
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I CANNOT
BUT MUSE THAT
I AM ON THE
LOSING END OF
THIS BARGAIN,
'TIS TRUE.

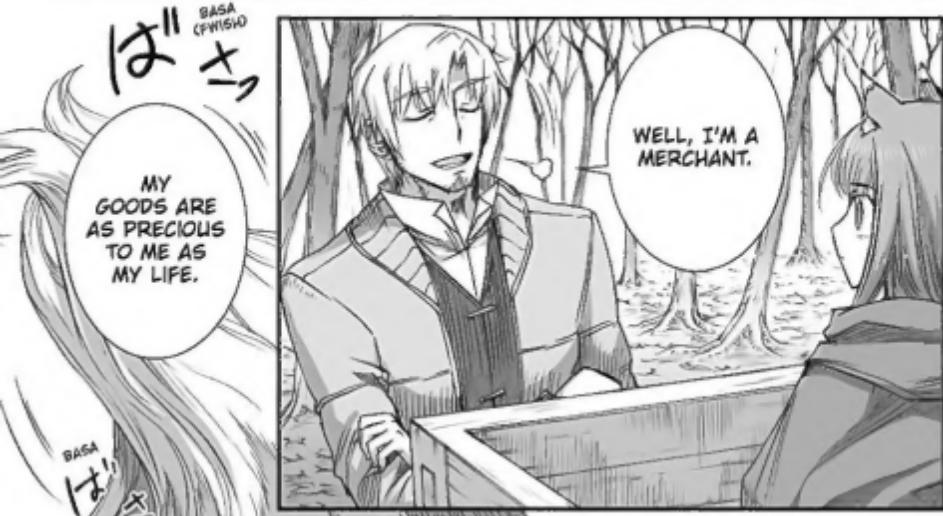
LOOK,
I SAID
I WAS
SORRY.

prologue











SPICE & WOLF

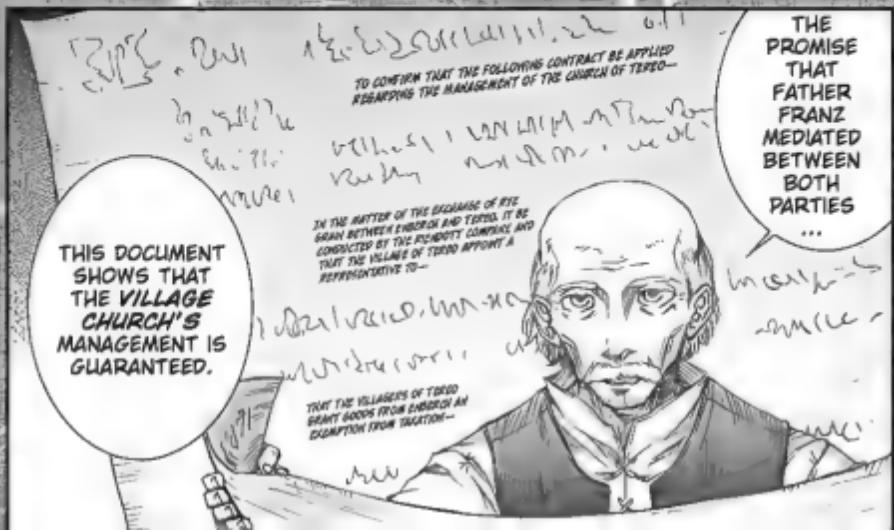


SPICE & WOLF









WITHOUT CONSULTING OTHERS ON THE DEFINITION OF A "VILLAGE CHURCH," I'M AFRAID...

THIS IS ONLY MY VIEW, BUT I DO BELIEVE THE VILLAGE OF TERO IS PART OF THE ENBERCH CHURCH'S PARISH.

THIS IS DECEPTION...

THEN WHAT OF THE GOD TRUYEO?

THE PEOPLE OF THE VILLAGE WILL NOT ACCEPT THIS.

THAT, OF COURSE, WE CANNOT ABIDE.

EVEN SPEAKING SUCH NAMES WITHIN THESE SACRED WALLS IS HERESY.

TAKE
HEART,
VILLAGE
ELDER!

...BUT
IF THE
PEOPLE OF
YOUR VILLAGE
JUST COME
REGULARLY TO
THE CHURCH,
THEIR HEARTS
WILL SOON
BE FILLED
ANEW.

THEIR
HEARTS
MAY FEEL
EMPTY AT
FIRST...

...WE CAN
BUILD NEW
ROADS AND
OPEN NEW
MARKETS.

TAXES
ON GRAIN
MAY RISE A BIT,
BUT UNDER THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE ENBERCH
PARISH...

LORD
BISHOP.

HMM?

.....





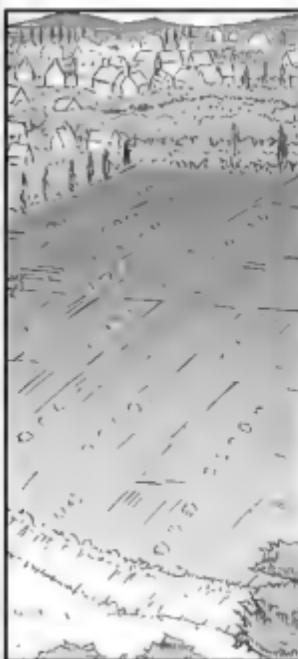




IT'S ALL
RIGHT,
ELSA.







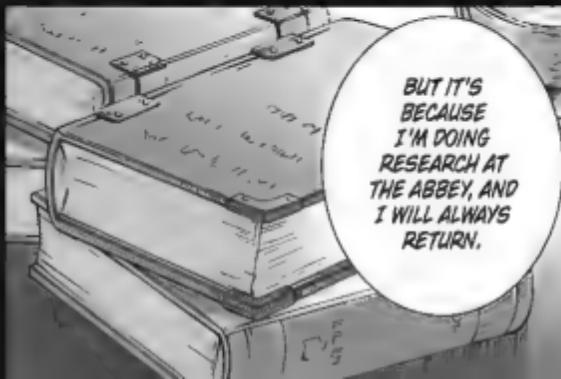










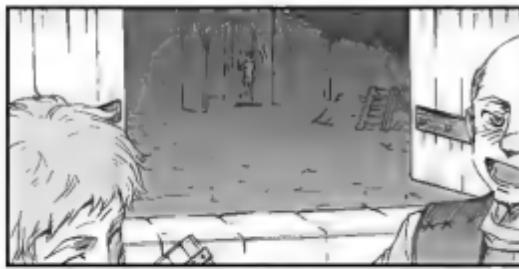














NOT TO
WORRY!
THIS
VILLAGE
HAS LORD
TRUYEO!

AND ME
T—

PORD
(CRACK)

PORD
(CRACK)



MIND YOUR
MANERS!

BIGAU
(FLICK)

EVEN IF
WE ALL BAND
TOGETHER, WE
MAY STILL BE
DRIVEN OUT.

YES.

YOU MEAN THE
FAIRY TALE THAT
FATHER FRANZ
USED TO TELL?
SOMETHING
ABOUT THE
WOLVES'
PARADISE...



AH!

THAT REMINDS
ME, A MOUNTED
MESSENGER
JUST RETURNED
TO THE VILLAGE
ELDER'S HOUSE!

ONW...

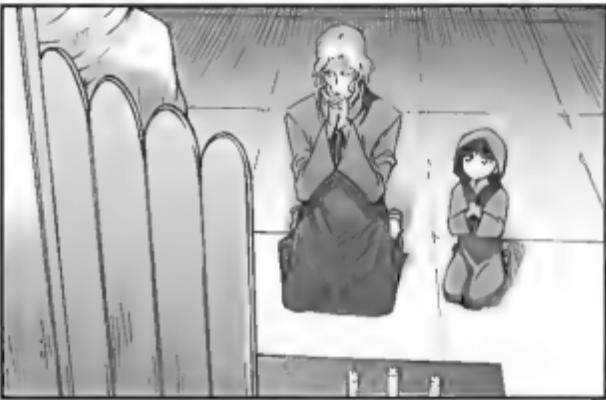


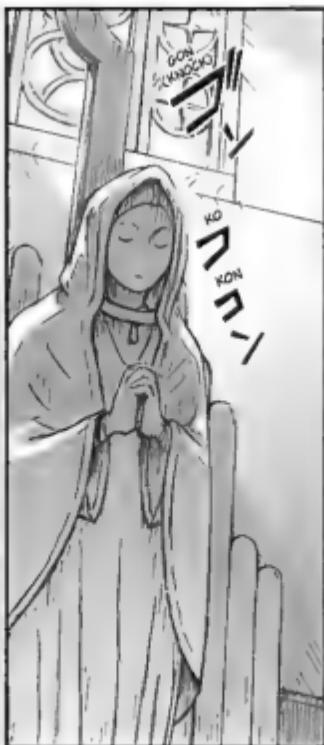






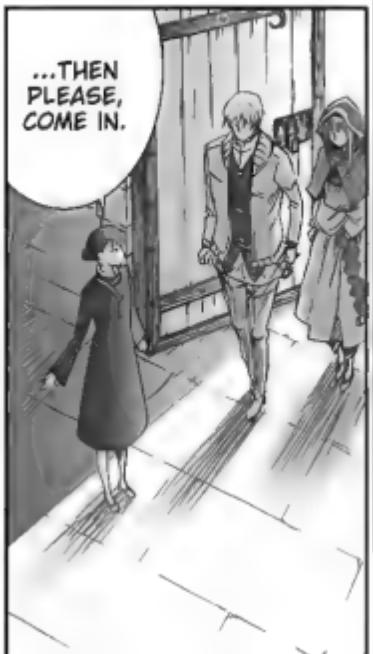








SPICE & WOLF







I LEARNED OF THE ABBEY FROM A NUN IN THE TOWN OF KUMERSUN.

THE SOURCE WAS A BIT ECCENTRIC AND MAY HAVE MISLED US.



NO, NO, I'VE ALREADY INQUIRED WITH THE ELDER, WHO SAID HE KNEW NOTHING OF IT.

I SEE.

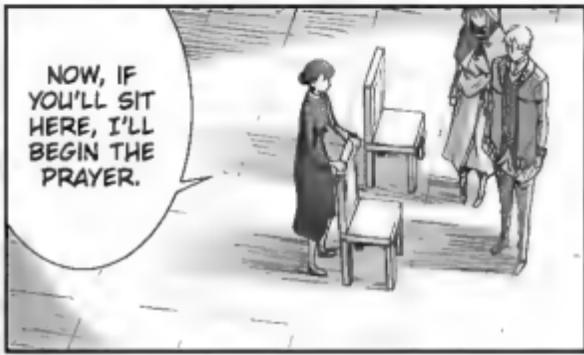


...MUST HAVE BEEN A MAN OF GREAT FAITH.



FATHER FRANZ...

HM?





NO,
I WILL
GIVE IT
HERE.



CONFESS
YOUR
SINS...

SUICIDE CHANNEL

...FOR
GOD IS
ALWAYS
FORGIVING
TO THOSE
WHO ARE
HONEST.

THOUGH GOD
KNOWS ALL, HE
STILL WISHES TO
HEAR YOU SPEAK
YOUR TRANS-
GRESSIONS.

I
HAVE BEEN
DECEPTIVE
FOR MY
OWN GAIN.

DO NOT BE
AFRAID. GOD IS
ALWAYS MERCIFUL
TO THOSE WHOSE
FAITH IS GOOD.

YOU HAVE
CONFESSED
YOUR SIN
BEFORE GOD.
NOW HAVE YOU
THE COURAGE
TO TELL THE
TRUTH?

I HAVE.





I HAVE NOT
COME HERE
TO ASK THE
LOCATION.

EH?

NO,
THAT IS
ANOTHER
LIE.

I HAVE
COME
TO ASK
WHETHER
THIS IS
DIENDRAN
ABBEY.





WE SIMPLY
WISH TO KNOW
THE CONTENTS
OF THE PAGAN
TALES THAT
FATHER FRANZ
COLLECTED.

MISS
ELSA.

IT'S
NOT FOR
BUSINESS.

YOUR
CAUTION
COMES FROM
NOT WANTING
TO REVEAL
THE ARCHIVES
TO ENBERCH,
YES?

NO DOUBT
THERE ARE MANY
FORBIDDEN TEXTS
IN FATHER FRANZ'S
RESEARCH.

AND
CERTAINLY
HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH
ENBERCH.





I AM
HOLY THE
WISEWOLF.

THIS
REASON.

ZUU
(SHFF)

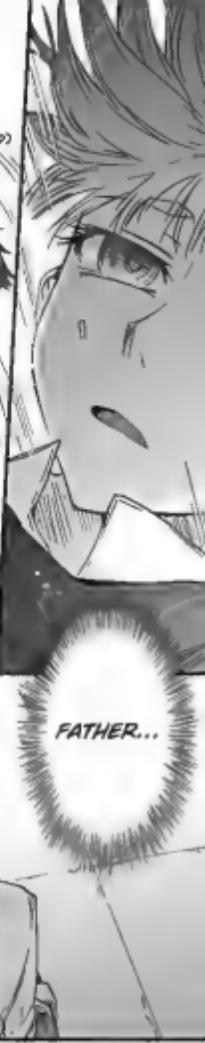
NOKO
CORING

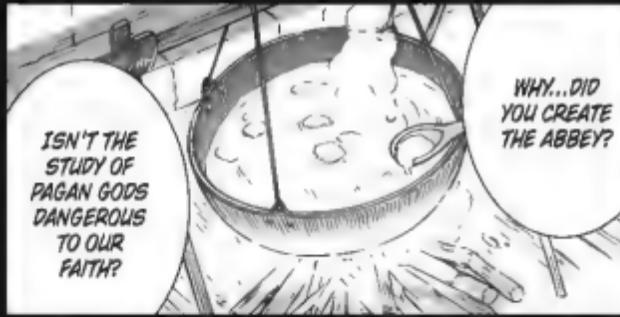
AH...
AH...

DAMN
COADES!

AND I SEEK
MY HOMELAND
OF YOITSU.

WOULD
YOU CARE
TO TOUCH
THEM?







BUT
THERE WERE
EXCEPTIONS.

THOSE WHO
BELIEVE IN THE
PAGAN GODS
BELIEVE THOSE
GODS ONCE HAD
PHYSICAL FORM
AND WORSHIP
THEM IN THEIR
TRADITIONS AND
FESTIVALS.

MOSTLY, IT WAS
MERE DEIFICATION OF
NATURAL PHENOMENA
LIKE FORESTS, RIVERS,
AND SPRINGS.





'TWOULD
BE BETTER
FOR US IF
YOU WERE TO
THINK OF IT
AS SUCH.

WHAT
I SAW
WAS NOT
A DREAM,
WAS IT?

IT IS
SAID THAT
DEMONS
TRICK
HUMANS
THROUGH
DREAMS.

WILL
YOU SHOW
US THE
WRITINGS
OF FATHER
FRANZ?

I ASK
YOU
AGAIN.

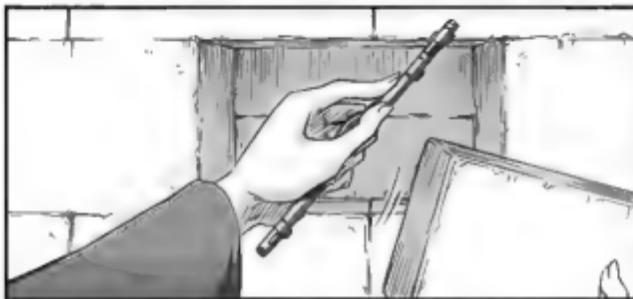
SO LONG AS
WE REACH OUR
GOAL, WE WILL
DISAPPEAR
LIKE A DREAM
AND TROUBLE
YOU NO
FURTHER.













UNDER-
STOOD.

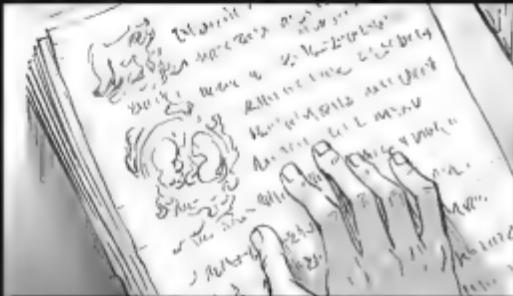
THE
STATUE
CAN NOW BE
MOVED, BUT
I CANNOT
DO IT...



















THE GIRL
NAMED
HOLO,
THE WISE-
WOLF OF
YOITSU...



BUT WAS
HE A TRUE
PATRON?
THE TRAVELING
MERCHANT
LEFT A TITHE
TO PAY FOR THE
CANDLES THEY
USED, AND IT
WAS ENOUGH
TO FILL THE
LIBRARY WITH
CANDLES.





IN THE END, I WOULD HAVE TO CRY AND BEG TO GET PEOPLE TO PAY. IT WAS AWFUL.

I ONLY DID IT A COUPLE OF TIMES WHEN I WAS JUST STARTING OUT.

BUT AFTER THAT IT'S EASY, SINCE THE VILLAGE SELLS ALL ITS GRAIN TO ENBERCH.

CHORA GLANCED

HA HA HA

EVEN AT MY LITTLE MILL, ONLY THE VILLAGE ELDER IS GLAD TO PAY TAXES.

I SURELY UNDERSTAND!

IMPRESSIVE EH?

WHAT'S MORE, WHEN WE BUY WINE OR CLOTHING FROM ENBERCH, WE PAY NO TAXES.

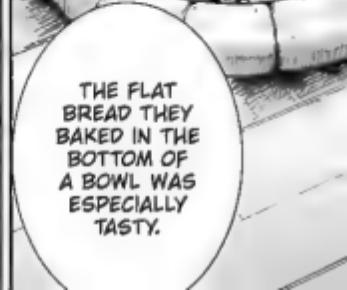
MUCHA (MUNCH)
LA MUCHA

THEY BUY OUR WHEAT, WE BUY OTHER THINGS FROM THEM.

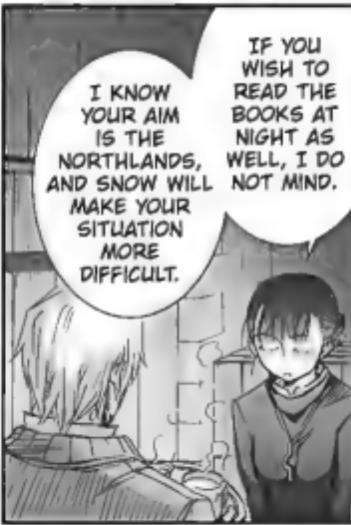
WE'RE EQUAL WITH ENBERCH.













BUT I DO
BELIEVE THAT,
EVEN AFTER
MY DEATH,
DIENDRAN
ABBEY...

...WILL
PROTECT
THAT WHICH
I LOVED.

IN SO DOING,
I HAVE RISKED
BEING SUSPECTED
A PAGAN/MYSELF
AND SPREAD
THIS RISK TO
MY LOVED
ONES.

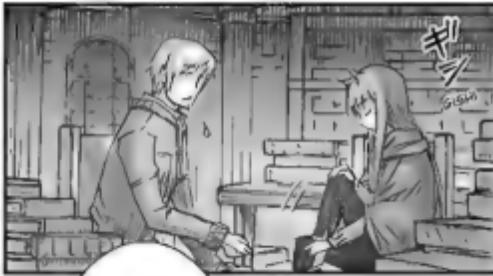
IN THE COURSE
OF MY ENDLESS
SEARCH FOR TRUTH,
I HAVE LEFT BEHIND
THIS MONUMENT.

IN SEARCHING
FOR TRACES OF
THE PAGAN GODS,
THE KNOWLEDGE
OF THEM HAS LED
ME TO BETTER
UNDERSTAND
MANY THINGS
ABOUT OUR
OWN GOD.









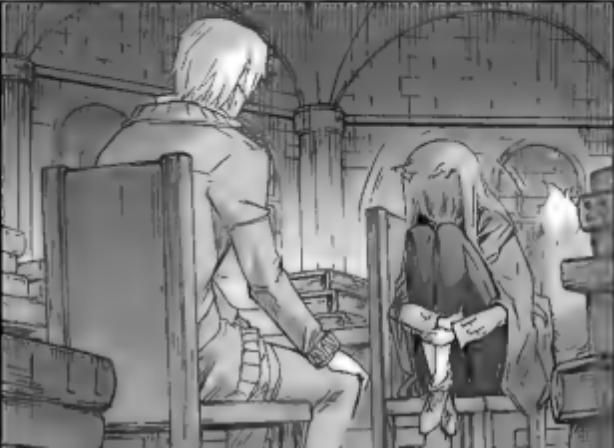
OF COURSE,
I'M HELPING
YOU BECAUSE
I WANT TO.
HOWEVER...

...WHAT
WILL YOU
DO AFTER
WE REACH
YOUR HOME?

BUT
WHAT OF
US?

THOSE
TWO ARE
PROBABLY
GOING
TO LIVE
TOGETHER
IN THE
CHURCH.

I
KNOW
NOT.

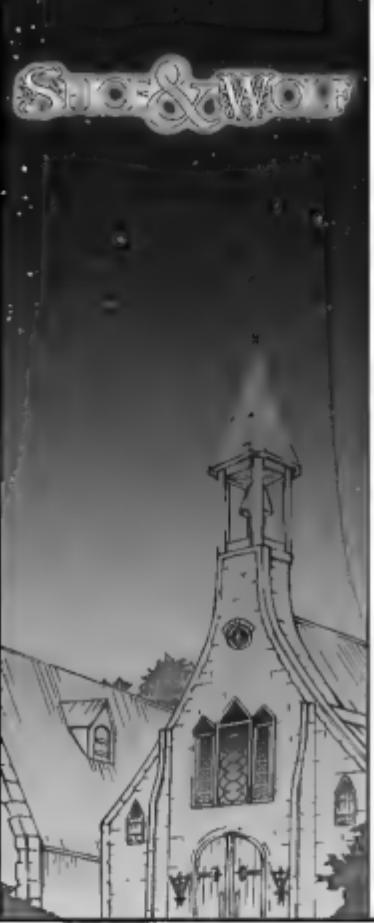




I AM
HOLO, THE
WISEWOLF
OF YOITSU.

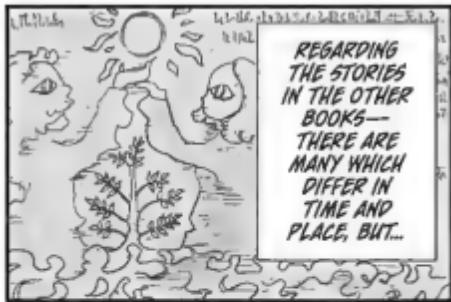






SPICE & WOLF





IT IS
NOT MY WISH
TO REGARD
THE TALES IN
THIS BOOK
AS SPECIAL.



HIS
HANDWRITING
IS MESSIER...
HE MUST
HAVE BEEN
EXCITED.

HOWEVER, THIS
PARTICULAR
SPIRIT IS THE
ONLY ONE WHOSE
STORIES I HAVE
ORGANIZED SO
THOROUGHLY.

I DO
NOT WISH
TO LET BIAS
CLOUD MY
VIEW OF ALL
THE TALES.



THAT IS
WHY I HAVE
VENTURED
TO LEAVE
THIS BOOK IN
AMONG ALL
THE OTHERS.

IF POSSIBLE,
I HOPE THAT
ONE WOULD
JUDGE WITH THE
OPEN HEART
OF THOSE
WHOSE LOVE OF
GOD IS LIKE A
ZEPHYR IN AN
OPEN FIELD.

YET
I CANNOT
HELP BUT
WONDER IF THE
PAGANS OF THE
NORTHLANDS
THEMSELVES...

...DID NOT
REALIZE THE
IMPORTANCE
OF THE
"MOON-HUNTING
BEAR."

YOITSU...

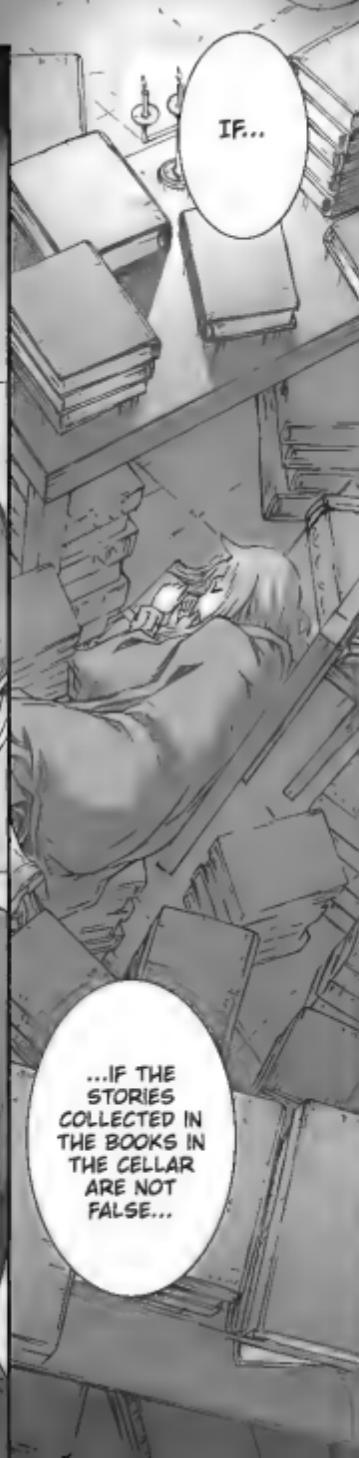








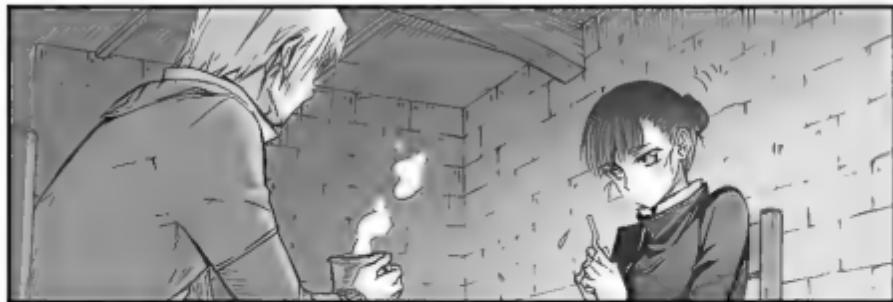
...THEN
WHAT DOES
THAT MAKE
OUR GOD,
IN WHOSE
NAME WE
CONVERTED
THE PAGANS
...?

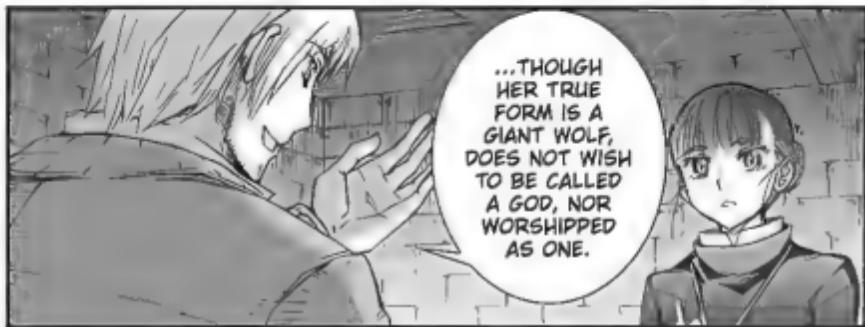


IF...



...IF THE
STORIES
COLLECTED IN
THE BOOKS IN
THE CELLAR
ARE NOT
FALSE...

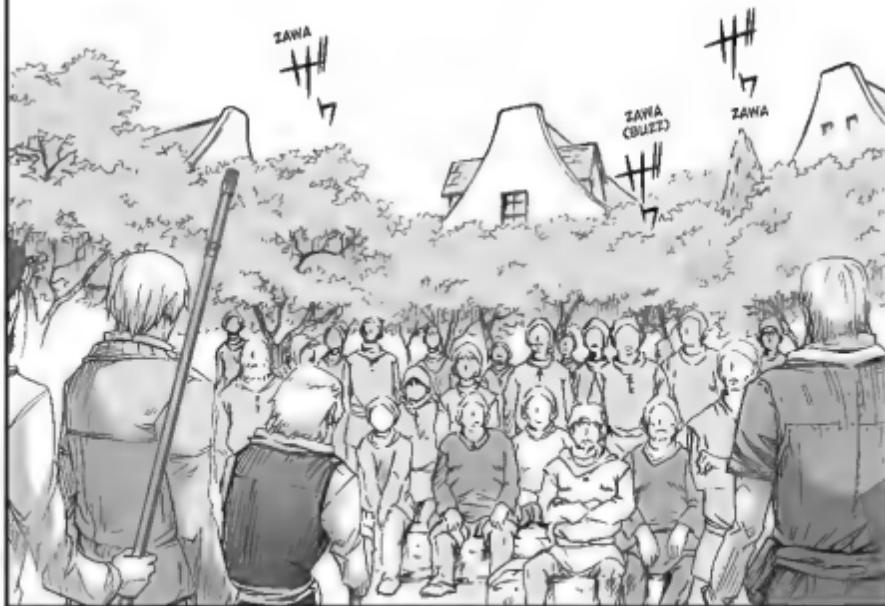














MANY PEOPLE IN THE GUILD'S HOUSE IN KUMERSUN ARE AWARE THAT I HAVE COME TO THIS VILLAGE.



OF COURSE, ELDER SEM, SO LONG AS YOU ARE TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTIONS...



I AM A MERCHANT WHO BELONGS TO THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD.

ZUL (STEP)



THAT WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH.



I MUST KNOW ONE MORE THING!

NO ONE FROM OUR VILLAGE HAS BEEN POISONED?



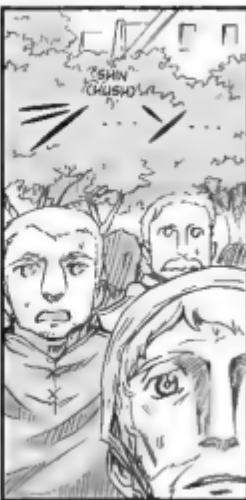
IT MEANS
WE'LL HAVE
TO RETURN
THE MONEY.



HAKIM
RODE BACK
TO TERO RIGHT
AWAY, SO HE
DOESN'T KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED
AFTER THAT,
BUT WE CAN
GUESS.

THE
FEUDAL LORD,
DUKE BADON, IS
SURE TO SEND
A MESSENGER
TO ENSURE THE
RETURN OF THE
WHEAT.

HE'S
THE ONE
WHO MIXED
POISON
WHEAT IN
WITH THE
HARVEST!





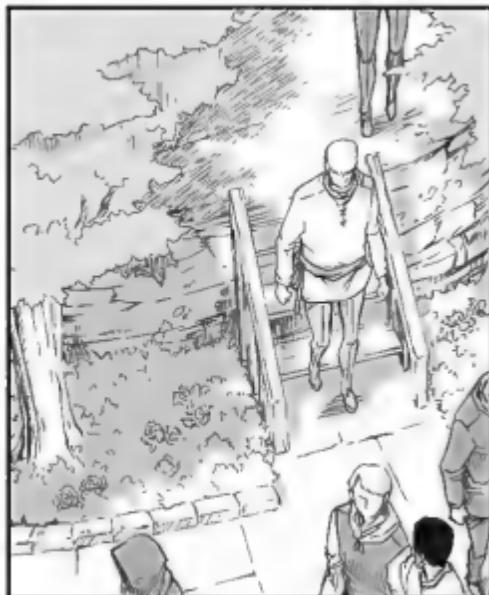
ZU
CLOUD

11

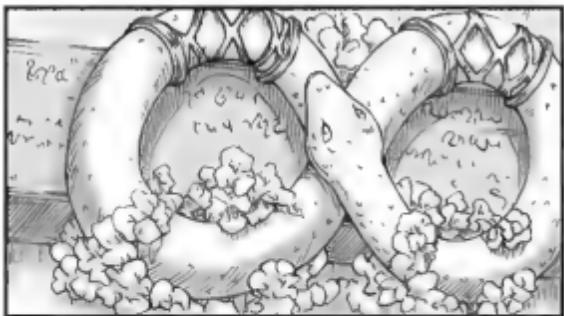
EXCUSE
ME?



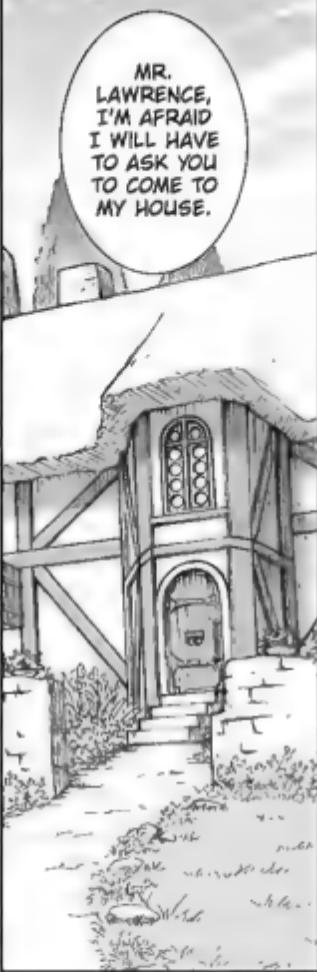








MR.
LAWRENCE,
I'M AFRAID
I WILL HAVE
TO COME TO
MY HOUSE.







HOW-EVER...



FUJI
SUGOI

...AFTER THAT,
WHO DO YOU THINK
WILL BE ACCUSED OF
BEING THE CULPRIT?

YOU ARE ABSURDLY
SOFT-HEARTED,
AFTER ALL...
HONESTLY, THE
TROUBLE I'M
PUT THROUGH
ON YOUR
ACCOUNT...

AND
THE GIRL
TOOK IT
COMES TO
THAT.

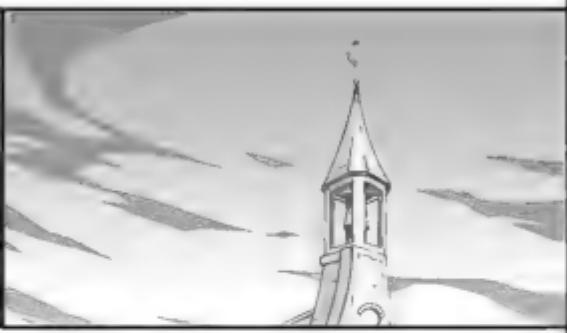
FINE, THEN,
LET HIM RIDE
ON MY BACK
AS WELL.



THE PROBLEM, THOUGH, IS THAT YOU'LL HAVE TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE FORM.









LISTEN
WELL, NOW.
YOU CAN'T
STAY IN THIS
VILLAGE ANY
LONGER.

THE
WORLD
IS VAST.

YOU
UNDERSTOOD
WHEN YOU
SAW THOSE
TWO STRANGE
TRAVELERS,
DIDN'T YOU?

FATHER
FRANZ WAS
A CAREFUL
MAN. DID HE
PREPARE
ANYTHING
FOR A TIME
LIKE THIS?

THINK
BACK,
ELSA.



SPICE & WOLF



SFX: ZAWA (BUZZ) ZAWA

















I PROPOSE
TO ESCAPE
THIS VILLAGE
WITH YOU
AND EVAN.



...THE
BLAME
WILL FALL
UPON YOU
TWO.

IF MY
COMPANION
AND I
ESCAPE
ALONE...



IT IS
THUS MY OWN
SELFISH WISH
THAT IF THERE
IS TO BE AN
ESCAPE, I BRING
BOTH OF YOU
WITH ME.

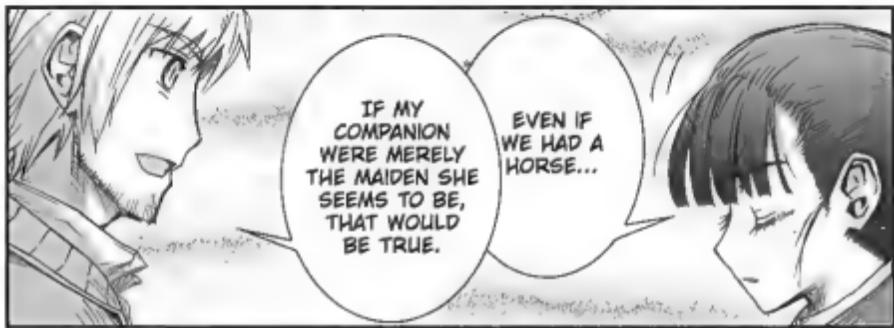
UWA
GLENCH!













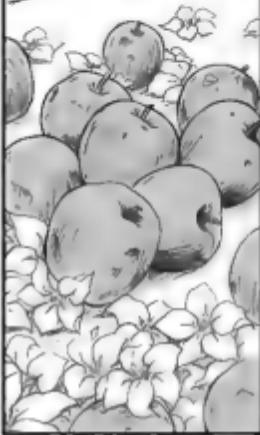








ACCORDING TO
EVAN, THIS WAS
THE BURROW
LORD TRUYEO
USED WHEN HE
CAME FROM THE
FAR NORTH TO
HIBERNATE.



HA-HAI!
OH, THIS
IS GREAT!

THIS
IS...



HUMANS...
SUCH QUEER
CREATURES,
SO QUICK TO
WORSHIP.

KUN
(SNIFF)



IT JUST
HAPPENED TO
MAKE A BURROW
HERE, AND YET
PEOPLE COME
TO WORSHIP. I
DOUBT IT HAS
EVER BEEN
ABLE TO GET
A PROPER
NAP.



VERY
CLEVER.
THE
VILLAGERS
WOULD
NEVER
DARE TO
ENTER.

LET US FIRST
HEAD DOWN TO
THE BROOK.

COME.

STAYING
HERE IS
LIKE ASKING
THEM TO
FIND US!

YOUR
FUR IS
LOOKING
FINE AS
ALWAYS.

TRULY!

WHY IS THE
HUMAN FORM SO
WEAK AGAINST
COLD?















OUR
PLAN IS TO
SILENTLY
ESCAPE.

A BIT OF
FAMILIARITY
WITH THE
LANDSCAPE
WOULD SERVE
US WELL.



SHOULD
WE RETURN
FOR IT?



...I LEFT
THE BOOK
HIDDEN
BEHIND
THE
ALTAR.



ONE DAY,
HOLOU
BECAME
FASCINATED
BY THE
SOUTHLANDS
AND LEFT
THE
FOREST.

SOME TIME
THEREAFTER, IT'S
SAID THAT THE
MOON-HUNTING
BEAR ATTACKED
THE FOREST, AND
THE REMAINING
WOLVES SCATTERED
WITHOUT SO MUCH
AS SHOWING
THEIR FANGS.

HOLOU...

THE MOON-HUNTING
BEAR WAITED FOR
HOLOU'S RETURN
FOR SOME TIME, BUT
WHEN IT REALIZED
SHE WOULD NOT,
IT SCARRED THE
FOREST WITH ITS
CLAWS AS PROOF
OF ITS CONQUEST
AND LEFT.

WHERE
DID IT GO
NEXT?

GOOD
CRAAAAAG

AND THIS
"BEAR"...



WHEN
THE MOON-
HUNTING
BEAR HAD
KILLED ALL
THE SPIRITS
OF THE
NORTH-
LANDS...

BUT I WAS
ALWAYS TOO
TERRIFIED TO
LISTEN TO THAT
PART OF THE
STORY...

...A BATTLE
WITH THE
GREAT SEA
SERPENT
TEIPEROVAN
AWAITED.

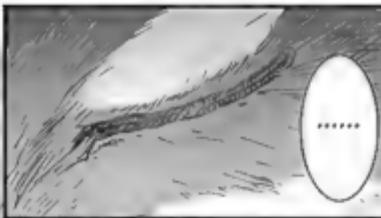




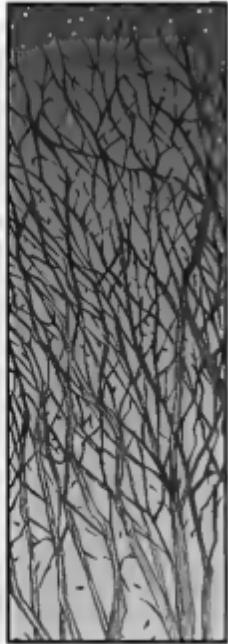
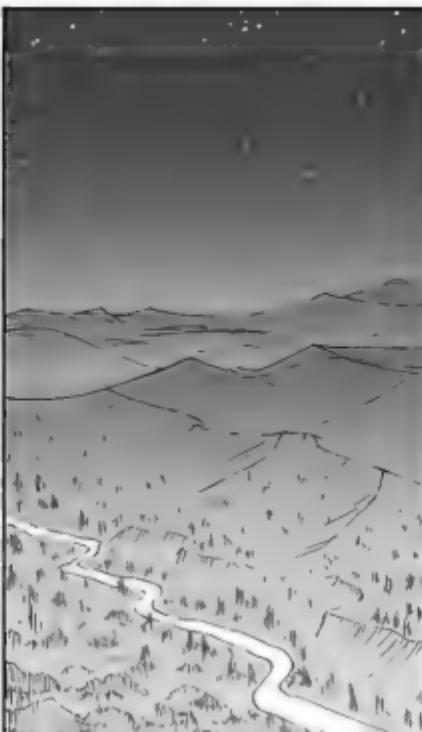


SPICE & WOLF















TO KILL THEM...



SUPPOSE SHE DID AGREE TO SUCH A REQUEST. IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE DONE.

BA (WHAP)



I SUPPOSE.

110 X
PUNK (SNAP)



BUT THEN ENBERCH WOULD SIMPLY SEND AN ARMY TO TERO.

AND WE CAN'T FIGHT EVERY ARMY THEY SEND.



LOOKS
LIKE A
HIGH-
RANKING
CLERGY
MEMBER...
I SEE.

THAT'S
BISHOP
VAN'S...

H GABA
GABA
GABA

THEY WOULD CLAIM
THE ABSENCE OF
VICTIMS IN TEROO
WAS PROOF THAT
THE VILLAGE WAS
BEING PROTECTED
BY EVIL SPIRITS
AND THAT ALL THE
VILLAGERS WERE
GUILTY OF HERESY.

BUT IF THE
HELLFIRE
HAD BEEN
MIXED IN WITH
TEREO'S WHEAT
HARVEST, AND
A CITIZEN OF
EMBERCH HAD
DIED FROM IT.

ELSA...

LET'S
RETURN
TO HOLO.













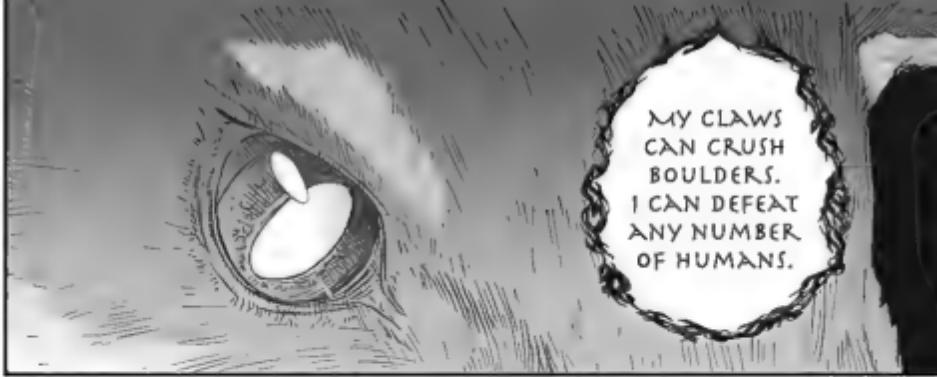


WAS I
WRONG?





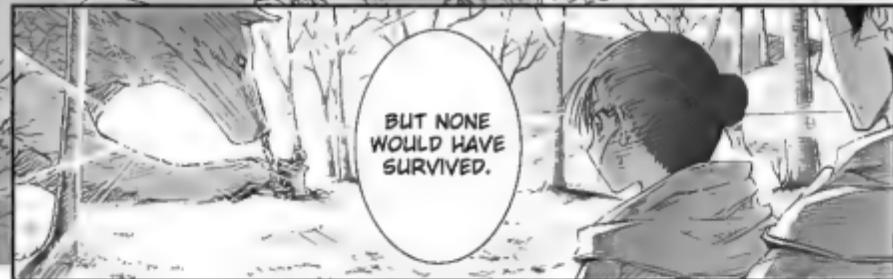




WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN BETTER? I'M SURE YOUR FELLOW WOLVES WOULD HAVE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE YOU.

BUT YOU WOULD'VE ADDED ONE MORE GREAT BATTLE TO THE STORIES IN FATHER FRANZ'S BOOKS.

SURELY NOT.



BUT NONE WOULD HAVE SURVIVED.

ALL ELSE IS HYPOTHETICAL.

NO?

YOU COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN WHEN DISASTER CAME TO YOITSU.

THAT
MUCH...

H!
DON
(BLIMP)

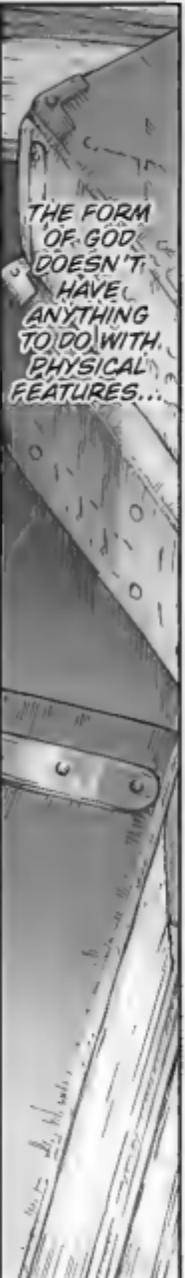
GUMA
(WHEEEF)

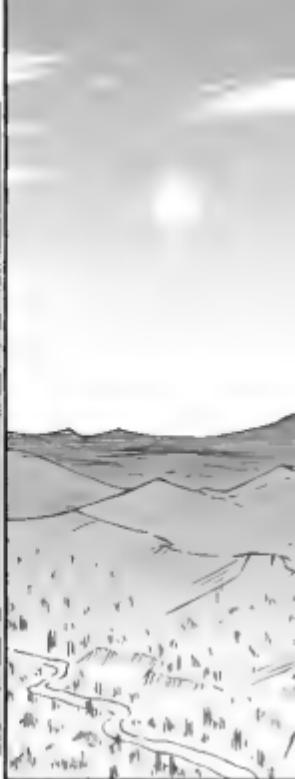
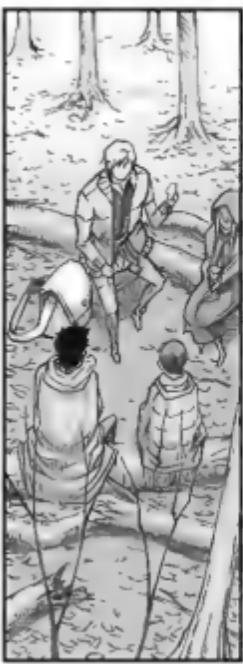


...I
KNOW.



INDEED,
THE WAY
THOSE TWO
SIMPLY
EXISTED
IN THAT
MOMENT...
SURELY...













Special Thanks!!

MR. OKAMOTO ITTOUHEI, MR. TENTSU TOI,
MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. YUU, MR. A.

I truly admire how well you've used the strengths of the manga form in this version of the story. It's all UNKNOWN territory from here! As a reader, I can't wait to see more!

支倉凍砂
ISUNA HASEKURA

SPICE & WOLF

Congratulations on Volume 7! I'm really impressed by how you captured Elsa's charm, just like you did with Norah. Each volume is a learning experience for me, and as I grind my teeth from the happiness of being able to be in this position, I'll be cheering you on!

Jyuu Ayakura



SPICE & WOLF 7

ISUNA HASEKURA
KEITO KOUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA

TRANSLATION: PAUL STARR

LETTERING: TERRI DELGADO

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